



Federation of European Equine
Veterinary Associations

FEEVA

Brussels, 11 Nov 2015

FEEVA position on Ketamine

The Federation of Equine Veterinary Associations of Europe (FEEVA) wishes to underline that Ketamine is very widely used for anesthesia and analgesia by equine veterinarians across all Europe. It is the only injectable anesthetic that is safe and well tested in the full range of species under a veterinarian's care. Similarly to other species, ketamine is used in horses as a primary anesthetic and for the induction to inhalant anesthesia. Ketamine is an essential anesthetic in equine veterinary practice, both in hospital settings and in the field.

FEEVA, supporting the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and the World Veterinary Association (WVA) underline its support to the WHO's Expert Committee on Drug Dependence Critical Review Reports and Expert Peer Reviews, which state that there is **no justifiable evidence for the international control of Ketamine** and which lead to the conclusion to keep Ketamine on Schedule 2. In most European countries, the license of veterinary practices ensures the control by special record-keeping of those drugs and the obligation to be stored in a locked cabinet.

FEEVA does agree with the need for narcotic and psychotropic drugs to be controlled, regulated and abuse to be prevented. However, these measures must be science based and proportional and should not unnecessarily hamper their use by veterinary surgeons neither put at risk the health and welfare of the animals under their care. It could be detrimental to good veterinary practice if ketamine was put under the more stringent restrictions.

FEEVA therefore strongly opposes to restrict the availability of Ketamine by placing it in Schedule I of the 1971 UN Convention on psychotropic substances. Such reclassification of ketamine, may lead to ketamine shortage in veterinary practices which will put at risk the health and welfare of animals.